

Warning Signs of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

- Unusual activity or no signs of movement from their homes
- Improperly dressed for cold weather.
- Wandering outside at odd hours or into areas where they may be exposed to danger.
- Unpleasant odors associated with health, hygiene, or housekeeping problems.
- Mail, newspapers, or other deliveries piled up and you know the person should be home
- Bruises, cuts, burns, repeated injuries, multiple injuries at one time, or untreated injuries.
- Injuries that don't fit the explanation given
- They are dependent on a stressed, chemically dependent or mentally ill caregiver and their basic needs are not being met.
- They have income that should meet basic needs, but those needs are not being met or they are facing eviction or utility shutoffs.
- Paid caregivers, friends, relatives, or acquaintances showing unusual interest in the adult's finances
- They are fearful of being alone with a caregiver or another person whom they would usually not be afraid.
- Torn, stained, or bloody clothing or bedding.

To Report Abuse Call Nebraska's

Adult & Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

Toll-Free

1-800-652-1999

Or

Law Enforcement

Outside of Nebraska

National Elder Abuse Hotline
1-800-677-1116

Other important numbers

Nebraska Long-Term Care
Ombudsman
1-800-942-7830

Nebraska Spanish Helpline
Línea de Crisis en Nebraska
1-877-215-0167

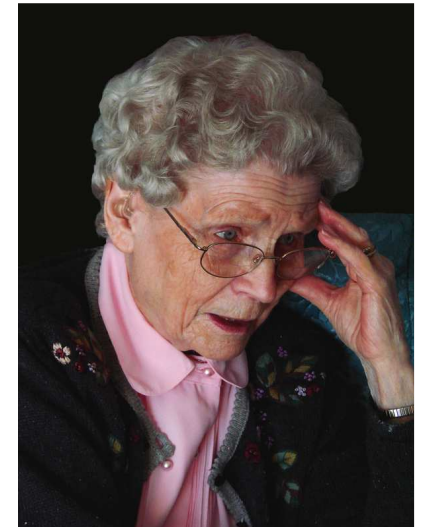
National Domestic Violence
Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE(7233)

Rape, Abuse, Incest National
Network
1-800-656-HOPE(4673)

Department of Health & Human Services



ABUSE NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS



AN EMERGING EPIDEMIC

**TO REPORT ABUSE CALL:
1-800-652-1999**

Department of Health & Human Services



Vulnerable Adults

Persons 18 years old or older who:

- Have a court appointed guardian
- Are unable to live independently or provide self-care due to physical or mental impairments
- Have grossly impaired judgment or behavior due to mental impairment

Types of Abuse

• *PHYSICAL ABUSE*

Physical abuse is intentionally causing injury to a vulnerable adult by striking, slapping, punching, burning, choking, or restraining.

• *SEXUAL ABUSE*

Sexual abuse is sexual intercourse, touching, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult without consent, when they are unable to consent, or by coercion, force, threats, or deception and incest.

• *NEGLECT*

Neglect is when a caregiver denies basic needs of a vulnerable adult to the extent that there is harm or risk of harm.

• *FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION*

Financial exploitation is the taking of money or property of a vulnerable adult by theft, deception, extortion, or any unlawful means.

• *SELF-NEGLECT*

Self-neglect is the inability of a vulnerable adult to meet their own basic needs due to physical, mental, or functional impairments.

Rights of Vulnerable Adults

- To be free from abuse and neglect.
- To make their own decisions, even if others disagree, as long as they are capable.
- The least restrictive intervention to remedy the abuse and neglect.

What You Can Do

- Be aware of vulnerable adults in your home, neighborhood, or workplace
- Watch for signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- **MAKE A REPORT!**
- Make a second report if there is new information or you still have concerns
- Be willing to assist in improving the quality of life for vulnerable adults

What to Report

Please provide as much information as possible when making a report including:

- Name, address, and age of the victim
- Description of the situation or incident(s)
- Names of others who may have information
- Name(s) of the abuser

All reports are confidential. DHHS will not release a Reporter's name except to law enforcement and county attorneys without a court order.

Mandatory Reporters

The following people are required by state law to make a report if they have reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is suffering from abuse, neglect, or exploitation:

- Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nursing assistants, and other medical personnel
- Psychologists, developmental disability professionals, and mental health professionals
- Law enforcement personnel
- Caregivers and employees of caregivers
- Owners, operators, and employees of a sheltered workshop
- Human services professionals and paraprofessionals
- Owners, operators, and employees of any facility licensed by DHHS

After a Report

If the report rises to the level of maltreatment requiring investigation it will be assigned to a local caseworker.

The local caseworker will visit the vulnerable adult and:

- Conduct an investigation of the reported allegations and assess the safety, risks, and needs of the vulnerable adult.
- Assist the vulnerable adult, caregiver, or others to maintain the adult's safety
- Provide ongoing assistance if consented to by the adult (or guardian) or ordered to by a court.